

and the whole evaporated to dryness. After withdrawing the muriate of potash and soda by distilled water, the silica was left in its usual white insoluble state. By comparing the magnitude of these granules, with some which were taken from a sand bath, it was calculated that they did not average more than the four-hundredth part of a grain in weight. The granules were thus unequivocally proved to be of silex, and as they were imbedded in, and diffused through, oxalate of lime, a substance of known urinary origin, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion, that the production or deposition of these two substances, went on simultaneously." * * *

"There are only three instances on record so far as I know, of the existence of silex in urinary calculi. Two are mentioned by MM. Fourcroy and Vauquelin as occurring among six hundred calculi which they analyzed; and here the silex was found blended with oxalate of lime, as in the specimen which I have mentioned. The third was observed by Professor Würzer, and its principal ingredients were phosphate of lime and lithic acid, the weight of the calculus being eight hundred and seventy grains, and the quantity of silex being one per cent. In none of these calculi, however, is the magnitude of the siliceous particles stated."

Dr. Venables mentions the deposition of siliceous gravel in a paper in the Quarterly Journal of Science and Art, for Dec. 1829, and in a letter to Dr. Yelloly, he says, that in one instance after carefully filtering and putting aside for a fortnight, a portion of the urine from which some of the granules of silex had been derived, he found the inside of the glass studded in two or three places, with minute crystals of silex, strongly resembling those which were thrown down by the urine. The precise modes in which silex is capable of being held in solution in urine, is not ascertained.

MISCELLANEOUS.

39. *Violent Cholera at Clapham*.—About six o'clock on Thursday morning, the 13th of August, a son of Mr. Day, schoolmaster, at Clapham, aged about three years, having been previously in perfect health, was attacked with violent vomiting and purging; at twelve o'clock convulsions came on, and he continued in them until seven o'clock the following morning, when he expired.

The rest of Mr. Day's children, as well as his scholars, amounting in number to thirty boys, between four and fourteen years of age, remained all well the next day. This being Saturday, several of the scholars went home, to spend Sunday with their friends, leaving in the school twenty-two boys: of these, twenty were attacked, between three and nine o'clock on Sunday morning, with vomiting and purging of the most alarming character, attended with a degree of prostration which threatened many of them with immediate death. The appearance of the matters vomited was somewhat various in different individuals, depending probably upon the liquids previously taken. In some instances it was tinged with green bile, and was of a sub-acid smell, but in the great majority of cases it was colourless and inodorous. The stools also varied in appearance, but they were for the most part pale, consisting of mucous and muco-purulent matter, slightly streaked with scarlet blood.

The pulse varied also very much in different individuals: in the early stage of collapse it was very frequent, but so feeble as to be scarcely perceptible. When reaction took place, it had, of course, more force, but less frequency. The skin was in most instances cold and clammy throughout; in a few cases it was for a short time hot, and the face was, in these, occasionally flushed. There was a low delirium in some advanced cases, with dilated pupils; but the sensorium was not affected in the greater number of them. None of the little patients complained of pain in the stomach or bowels, beyond the griping which preceded the stools. There was, however, in a few of them, slight tenderness and some tension of the abdomen; and, as far as the exact course of the symptoms could

be ascertained in such a scene of confusion, it may be said generally that the disease seemed to come on very much like the tropical cholera, with a short obscure stage of excitement, which was immediately followed by a state of extreme collapse; and that this, under the use of stimulants, was succeeded, in those cases which were of the best aspect, by a stage of warmth, gentle moisture, and general reaction. We have mentioned that the disease was accompanied pretty generally with convulsive action of the muscles; but it may be of importance to remark that this, which amounted rather to a kind of twitch, or sub-sultus, than to cramp, was confined to the upper extremities.

Sunday afternoon.—Another of Mr. Day's sons is evidently sinking, and a third, as well as several of the pupils, are in a state of dangerous collapse; others, again, although not out of peril, are rallying from the attack. The first question that suggested itself to the minds of the medical men in consultation was, whether the symptoms were referable to any poison received into the stomach. The scrutiny, however, which was instituted with reference to this point led to nothing satisfactory at the moment. It was then determined to examine the body of the little boy who was the first victim of the disease. On laying open the abdomen, the viscera presented themselves in a remarkably healthy state, as far as external appearances went. The liver was of a perfectly healthy size and colour; the gall-bladder was somewhat distended with healthy bile; the peritoneum, throughout, pale, transparent, and perfectly free from any appearance of thickening. On laying open the small intestines, however, it was observed that the peyerian plexuses of mucous glands were enlarged in patches throughout the intestinum ileum, raising internally, without destroying the mucous membrane covering them, into condylomatous elevations: lower down in the small intestines a few of the glandulæ solitariae were similarly affected, and in the ascending colon and transverse arch these latter glands seemed almost universally diseased, giving an appearance of pustulation, or rather tuberculation, to the whole interior of the bowel; the interstices of the tubercles here, as well as in the small intestine, being entirely free from vascularity. The mesenteric and mesocolic absorbent glands in the neighbourhood of the parts most diseased, were congested and enlarged. The stomach was quite healthy. The viscera of the thorax were likewise quite healthy. The contents of the cranium also, which were carefully examined, were entirely free from effusion, or other trace of disease.

The treatment which had been adopted, and which it was determined still to pursue, was, in the first place, to obey the great indication of preserving life by administering stimulants with opiates to those who were sinking from exhaustion and spasm. In the few instances in which the head seemed in the course of the reaction to be affected, it had been deemed right to relieve this symptom by the application of a few leeches to the temples. Besides these means, it was found necessary to apply mustard poultices to the abdomen, and to wash out the bowels with enemata, administering afterwards full doses of calomel and opium.

Early on Monday [another of Mr. Day's sons, a boy of four years of age, sunk under the attack, twenty-three hours after its commencement. His body was carefully examined a few hours after his death, and exhibited the following appearances:—

The abdominal viscera, when first exposed, appeared, (as in the former case,) perfectly free from the traces of inflammation or other disease.

The examination of the bowels was commenced with that of the intestinum ileum, in which the mucous glands, both aggregate and solitary, were found generally enlarged, and the mucous membrane covering them in many places ulcerated. The interior of the cæcum, colon, and rectum, however, exhibited no appearance of diseased mucous glands, although the membrane itself was throughout uniformly congested, pulpy, and very easy separable from the subjacent tissue.

The examination was now pursued upwards from the ileum: the jejunum at the lower part was less diseased than the ileum, and as it approached the duo-

denum was more and more healthy; the duodenum, however, on being laid open, exhibited a pustulated appearance, depending on enlarged follicles, very similar to that of the colon in the former case. The mesenteric and mesocolic glands belonging to the diseased portions of the bowel, were enlarged and more vascular than natural. The liver was also quite healthy; the gall-bladder contained more than an ounce of perfectly healthy bile. It was remarkable that the contents of the bowels were nearly colourless, and had no feculent, or indeed any other peculiar odour. The stomach was perfectly healthy. The viscera of the thorax were likewise quite free from disease. In the head, the ventricles of the brain were distended with about three ounces of serosity; and the sinuses were somewhat more changed than usual with dark-coloured blood. The brain and its appendages were not otherwise diseased.

Most of the boys were removed by their friends in the course of Monday; many of them in a very alarming condition, all however recovered.

The food and drink of the boys at the school at Clapham, as well as the contents of the stomach and bowels, were carefully examined by Dr. Burton, the chemical lecturer in the borough, and no poison or other cause of disorder was detected in them.

It is now ascertained that a very foul drain, or cesspool, the situation of which was not previously known, behind the house, was accidentally opened, in making some alterations about the grounds, a day or two before the disease occurred: the contents of this receptacle were taken out and thrown into a garden adjoining the play-ground, and separated from it only by a low and slight open paling. From this source it cannot be doubted arose the whole evil. Whether the sulphureted hydrogen itself was the agent in producing this pestilence, or whether that gas was merely the vehicle of some more subtle and abstruse miasma, it is not easy to say; but the boys were freely exposed to this effluvia, and almost every one of those who had been in the play-ground were attacked by the disease.

It is remarkable that the younger boys were most severely affected, and that a man who actually fell into the cesspool escaped altogether.

The appearances after death in the two cases which died, bore a striking resemblance to those delineated by Roideur and Wagler, as the results of the "morbus mucosus," which raged in Vienna between sixty and seventy years ago, and which probably owed its origin also to some analogous endemic effluvia. So far as the great intestine was concerned, the morbid change was very analogous to what takes place in the common fevers of this country.—*Lond. Med. Gaz. August, 1831.*

40. *On the supposed importation of the Cholera into Russia, by a Russian corps recently arrived from Turkey.*—In the review on cholera in the present number an account is given of the first appearance of that disease in Poland, and the opinion that it was introduced by the Russian army, in which the disease prevailed, is alluded to. Since that article was written, we have received a number of the *Journal Universel et Hebdomadaire*, containing an extract from the report made to the Royal Academy of Medicine by M. LONDE, the president of the medical commission sent to Warsaw by the French government. Dr. Londe says that the supposition that the cholera was communicated to the Polish troops by the Russian is contradicted by a document, which proves, 1st, that the cholera did not exist in the Russian corps engaged in the battle of Iganie; 2d, that not a single case of cholera appeared among the two thousand Russian prisoners made in the battle of Iganie, and who were completely isolated at Praga and watched for ten days; 3d, that more cases of cholera occurred among the Polish troops which had not been at Iganie, than among those which had been there. Dr. Londe also quotes other facts in opposition to its importation, and also many in favour of its spontaneous development. Thus, a French woman who had been confined to her bed for two months, and received but few visits died in twenty-four hours of cholera, without any of the persons who vi-

sited her being affected. A sister of charity, also, who had been bed-ridden for six months, went to the balcony of her chamber, which looked out upon the Vistula, was attacked with cholera, and died in four hours. Dr. L. also cites the case of a porter who died of cholera, whilst his wife and children, who slept in the same bed with him, were not affected.

41. *Atmospherical Changes during the Prevalence of the late Influenza in England.* By J. A. HINGESTON, Esq.—The late “influenza” was, perhaps, modified or occasioned by atmospherical changes, or, as Sydenham would have said, by “the constitution of the year.” If the following sketch of the state of the weather be worthy of your notice, it will find a place in the columns of your journal; for it may, in some degree, account for that excitement of the air-passages of the human body which has so lately prevailed, and been denominated “influenza;” and it may probably explain the cause of that mental and bodily debility which accompanied or followed that singular affection. It will be seen that the respiratory mucous membranes were first parched and afterwards moistened by the changes of the atmosphere, and that the whole body was first excited and then depressed by the same causes. Such circumstances will always controul and direct the conduct and practice of a thoughtful man.

During the month of May the weather was unusually variable; the barometer rising and falling suddenly, and the thermometer standing one day at 80 deg. Fah. and a few days afterwards at 32 degrees; the wind was prevailing steadily from the north-east. The month commenced with heavy clouds, murky storms, copious precipitations of rain, and remote thunder; the thermometer ranged from 55 to 60 degrees, and the wind blew for a few days from the west and then shifted round to the north. This condition of atmosphere was succeeded by an over-cast sky, with intervals of sunshine, a keen cutting wind from N. E., frost, ice, and snow; the thermometer rapidly sinking to 32 degrees. Great-coats which had been thrown off, were resumed, and the fire-hearth became acceptable. By the middle of the month the weather cleared and became warmer, the sky brightening; a high blustering wind prevailed from N. E., drifting before it clouds of dust from the roads, the thermometer ranging with celerity between 62 and 32 degrees. During the severest interval of this weather ice was formed upon the ponds at night, the early fruits were partially blighted, the petals of the new-blown rose dropped from the shrub, and the hedge-row box seemed, as it were, singed—“the frosty air-burnt froze.” The north-east wind was heightened into a gale, by which several vessels were drifted from their moorings in the pool of the Thames; and a heavy atmosphere, a calm, and a soaking rain, followed. From this time (20th) to the end of the month, either a gray mist, with a hot sun, 80 degrees, occasionally gave way before a gelid wind 40 degrees from N. East, the usual forerunner of storms and thunder, or the soil became dry and dusty under a slight sunshine with fleeting cloudlets, or a sultry sun gleamed through a hazy atmosphere. The thermometer stood at night 32 degrees, and in a day varied between 50 and 80 degrees. A pelting rain, N. 50 degrees, and a fine, clear, breezy day, W. 60 degrees, closed the month. Then followed the month of June, remarkable only for a high temperature, a singular humidity of air, a soft wind from the S. W., and a bright hot summer's sun. During the first days of the month, the sunshine was interrupted by a light rain; once by clouds, rain, and a gale from north 40 degrees; and occasionally by transient hail-storms, and remote thunder. The thermometer ranged between 40 and 80 degrees, but it generally varied between, 75 and 60 degrees, and this was the month in which the influenza, so well described by Dr. Burne (see Med. Gaz. July 2d, 1831,) made its appearance.—*Lond. Med. Gaz. Aug. 1831.*